

NMICG Meeting Notes 1-19-06

Meeting attendance: Susan Lee, USFS, Lorene Guffey, USFWS, Tricia Roller, USFWS, Bob Lineback NPS, Fred von Bonin, BIA.

1. Agenda Items: Who is the new NM State FMO? Donald Griego, who was unable to attend, as he was at the SWCG meeting.

2. Zone Collaboration Letter; Any responses from the zones on the upcoming due date of Feb 1 for the Zone Charters, list of proposed projects by priority, and lists of zone members for their fuels/smoke collaboration? We discussed contacting SWCG members if we did not get charters in a timely manner.

Santa Fe Zone apparently already has a fuels group established for more than a year. They were having a meeting this afternoon. A committee of 2 (Marla Rogers NPS and a F.S. person) are supposed to write up the charter.

Taos Zone had verbally agreed to the process. Maria (?), George Devis (F.S.), and Kelly Castillo (BLM) are on the committee. Kelly is supposed to be writing the charter.

Albuquerque Zone – Robert Morales (F.S.) is working on the charter.

Gila Zone- Bobby Madrid and Shelly Crook (F.S.) are working on the charter

Lincoln Zone – Paul Schmidtke and Chad Stewart (F.S. and FS/BLM) are working on their charter.

Lisa Bye and Bob Lineback have encouraged all of the zones to get their draft developed. (Additional info...Susan Lee contacted some of the folks working on these charters, and all zones said they were working on their charters, but some might not be in by the deadline)

3. RFA updated: A new federal collaborative decision process was directed, but it is not in place yet. The rescission does not affect this funding. The FWS did not know what their situation was, and the NPS funding is there, but they don't know how much money is available yet. Emphasis for the NPS will be on supporting extended attack rather than equipment which has been emphasized in the past.

4. Upcoming fire season: Any recommendations from NMICG? We will discuss with Donald Griego at the next meeting.

There is a Wildfire Prevention Week coming up March 26 – April 1, 2006. The AZ and NM Governors have been contacted and are being asked to make a proclamation during this week. The Theme is "Do your part, don't let wildfires start".

The SW Prevention Team is trying to coordinate closures, and severity requests.

Updates on severity and closures:

FWS- No severity requests yet in AZ or NM. TX and OK have severity prevention patrols on.

NPF – have 6 approved severity requests. In NM, Carlsbad Caverns, and in TX, Lake Meredith, Guadalupe, Big Thickett, and Chicasaw areas are requesting severity. El Malpai and Bandelier will probably request severity 1 month from now if they receive no more moisture.

BIA – no severity yet, but they are getting ready.

FS – Cibola N.F has restrictions in the Black Kettle and Kiowa grasslands. The Lincoln N.F. and Cibola N.F. have requested severity. Other forests are considering severity requests.

5. Are CWPP's being done where needed in NM? We need to discuss with Donald at the next meeting. At the next meeting we also want to invite Donna Hummell of the BLM to discuss the grant program the BLM has for funding CWPP's and how that is going.

6. Explain the tribal fuels/fire management training that the FS is sponsoring and its objectives. The FS has a workshop designed to provide some of the SWFF crew bosses with leadership skills for fuels projects. The idea is to try to get some of the SWFF crews where they can also function as Fuels crews (most likely as contract crews) for the Forest Service. There are two sessions planned, one being in HonDah AZ. A group of tribal members will be selecting the participants.

7. NM State taking over yearly project location maps. These maps could include CWPP boundaries, CAR'S, etc. We were hoping the GIS person for NM State (Kim Paul) could take over this job, with data provided by Susan Lee for the specific project location every year. We will discuss this with Donald at the next meeting.

8. FIREWISE Interagency groups. We need to discuss this with Donald at the next meeting.

9. SWCG NMICG website location and updating. It was decided that the Meeting notes, Zone collaboration letters, agendas for upcoming meetings, and charter should be posted to this site. Any requests for posting should go from the Chair to Jay Ellington in SWCC to post.

Susan Lee will update the list of NMICG members and their backups and send out to the group. If at all possible, we ask that a backup attend the meetings if the regular member cannot attend.

Hi Susan, I do have an update on Severity for Fish, we currently have severity resources in northern Texas; OK and South TX have their first request in. (Update from Lorene).

Our next meeting will be at the BLM office in Santa Fe on April 26, 2006 at 1000. Lisa Bye will find us a meeting room.